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## FALL PLANTING.

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Most flowering bulbs should be planted in the autumn. In this latitude the proper time is the month of October. It is usually not difficult to interest pupils and parents in the spring planting of seeds; but there has been comparatively little done in this direction in regard to the fall planting of bulbs, shrubs, and trees. The great majority of the earliest spring flowering plants are those that begin the year before in a bulb that lies through the winter at a greater or less depth below the surface. The frost is scarcely out of the ground when the first tender shoots appear, and in an incredibly short time, even sometimes with the snow flying, they blaze out in a wealth of color that contrasts strongly with the dull surroundings.

There is no good excuse for a school or home that can have the use of any ground being without these flowers. They are even more easily planted than seeds, and, when once in the ground, they require almost no attention. They grow, flourish, and die in a period when no weed is able to compete with them for place and power.

A bulb is something like a big underground bud. Its structure, which varies somewhat with different plants, can be readily understood by dissecting an onion or a tulip bulb. At the base is a short nub which answers for a stem to support the leaves that, much thickened, closely inclose the tender growing points in the center. The bulb is a form that the plant has invented which enables it to carry through the inhospitable winter into a second season a large food supply that it has spent all of the first season in manufacturing. It is not necessary, therefore, for a bulbous plant to postpone the period of flowering until a large foliage area has been developed, as most plants that come from the seed in the spring must do. Its thickened leaves, at the first peep of spring, are ready to give up their rich nourishment for the immediate

development of flowers and fruit. The foliage leaves of the second season are chiefly concerned in building up a new bulb for the following year.

#### I. GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR PLANTING.

1. *Soil*.—All plants have acquired certain habits which the gardener must respect if he is to succeed with them in cultivation. To understand bulbs, go to the localities where wild lilies of different kinds grow, and note the conditions. They will be found usually in loose, loamy, moist ground, but in areas not always covered with water. A shaded woods with a deep soil of leafy mold is a favorite spot. They will not be found in dry, hard, and unshaded clays. In the winter they lie well covered with dead leaves which in a wonderful way keep the earth from freezing.

The conditions, therefore, for bulbs the size of a tulip, etc., are (*a*) deep, loamy, sandy soil; spade up the ground at least a foot in depth; (*b*) a well-drained location; round the surface of the bed so the water will not stand on it in winter; (*c*) a loose, leafy cover for the winter. If the location is on the sunny side of a wall or house, the start will be much earlier in the spring, but the blossoms will not likely last so long.

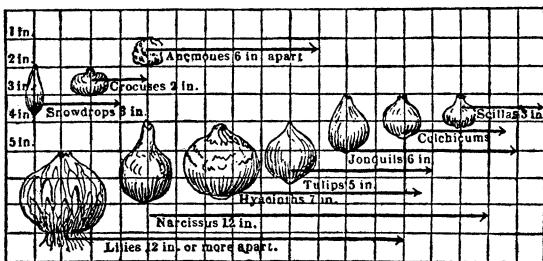
2. *Arrangement*.—It is best, generally speaking, to plant so that the flowers will appear as masses of color. A notable exception to this plan is the crocus. It may be planted with fine effect over a grassy lawn in groups of twos or threes. With a spade or trowel lift one edge of a piece of sod, making a hole about three inches deep. Place in this two or three crocus bulbs and replace the sod, patting it down. For weeks in the early spring they will beautifully spangle the sward with white and purple and gold. A clump of snowdrop bulbs tucked away in a sheltered nook will surprise one with its modest bloom before the snow is gone.

The accompanying chart, reproduced from *Popular Gardening*, gives clearly in graphic form the depth and distance from each other that the common bulbs should be planted. The best way, perhaps, is to spade out the entire bed to the required depth, and then set the bulbs firmly in the ground in the desired order.

Carefully cover them with fine earth, and then soak the bed with water. After this fill up the bed to the top, leaving the surface rounded.

## II. SELECTION OF BULBS.

It is not necessary to name here specific varieties, as each one will wish to make his own choice from the florist's catalogue. Among the various kinds that may be counted upon to give satisfaction are the following: tulips, hyacinths, snowdrops, daffodils, scilla, narcissus, jonquils, crocus, and lilies. The florist's catalogue will indicate the time of blooming of each of



CHART, SHOWING DEPTH AND DISTANCE APART OF BULBS.

the different varieties, and the blossoms may be so timed as to appear simultaneously or in succession, as may be desired. In general, the early and single varieties of tulips and the single hyacinths are the most pleasing and the easiest to raise. In buying, it is always best to select large, first-class bulbs which may be depended upon to give a vigorous plant. They cost more than the "bedding" sizes, but the results justify the extra expenditure, and if one must economize, it is better to get along with fewer plants.

## III. OTHER PLANTS.

In addition to the bulbs, there are many other flowers that may be planted in the fall; sweet William, peony, iris, hollyhock (the roots), columbine, phlox, and pansies (seed) are among the number. Autumn is the most favorable time also for planting trees and shrubs. This may be done as soon as the leaves fall. At

the end of summer one is apt to have fresh in mind the particular spots about the house that during the summer would have been greatly improved by the presence of a shrub or tree. In planting the latter, some of the hardier fruits should not be overlooked. The Whitney crab, for example, yields abundant and excellent fruit, and is a beautiful tree either in leaf or blossom. It should be remembered, too, that the smaller fruits, such as gooseberries, currants, raspberries, and blackberries, will do well along a fence or wall in a space that otherwise may easily become unsightly. If such out-of-the-way places are thus filled up there is at once a sufficient motive for keeping them in order.

#### IV. CARE.

As winter approaches, the roots of all the plants should be well soaked with the hose, if the rainfall is insufficient. The bulbs and other plants of this general class should be covered to a depth of four to six inches, if possible, with that best of all nature's litter, autumn leaves. The covering should extend several inches on all sides of the beds. If leaves cannot be obtained, then straw, or other light material, may be used. When the severest weather is over, the litter may be in part removed. As the ground thaws out, take it all away and lightly stir the surface among the bulbs. The ground should be kept thoroughly moist, but not too wet. Ordinarily the water from the melting snows will be quite sufficient to bring out the earliest flowers.